

Talking Points for PNEC Constitution Proposed Amendments

1. PNEC Board of Directors, for the past 2 years, has been engaged in a deliberative process to articulate the mission of the PNEC in the future.
 - a. Vision: United in Faith ... Created to Serve... Committed to Love.
 - b. Mission: Equipping, empowering, and supporting those who would spread Christ's ministry
 - c. Values: We value: The faith that binds us to each other, Christian love, the diversity of God's children, Collaborative leadership, Serving in covenant, and Clear and honest communication
2. Review of governing documents and their consistency in supporting the mission of the organization is necessary for safeguarding the health of an organization and its sustainability
3. As part of this process, the Board has reviewed the Constitution to identify obstacles to PNEC governance. The Board has recommended the proposed amendments to remove those obstacles.
 - a. Obstacle: Board composition does not lend to effective exercise of legal/fiduciary responsibilities. Amendments seek to redefine the board as a body that is nimble to rapidly changing times, deliberative and capable of fulfilling its governance responsibilities, both legal and moral.
 - i. Highlight the specific amendments that address this point
 - b. Obstacle: the process for authorized ministry does not reflect direction of the United Church of Christ's Manual on Ministry. The amendments seek to better define responsibility around authorized ministry and establish the Committee on Ministry as the steward of those responsibilities.
 - i. Highlight the specific amendments that address this point
 - c. Obstacle: the focus of the conference board has sometimes been on operational/ministry work that is the purview of staff and ministry volunteers. Amendments focus on the alignment of governance committees for the board and ministry work moving out of the constitution and into operational ways of work.
4. In many ways, the PNEC is already living into the intent of these amendments and needs these amendments to be adopted so future actions are compliant with the Constitution. Otherwise the Board will not be able to lead and direct the PNEC toward fulfilling its mission.
5. The proposed amendments, while being presented at the same time the PNEC is asked to consider its relationship with the PSEC, the proposed amendments stand apart from that process. The Board will need to bring other proposals and actions to the PNEC to enact any structures the conversations with the PSEC might help to foster.
6. These proposed amendments are reflections of hope. They show the Board's discernment during the transition from the leadership of our prior conference minister to a future where the work of the UCC in our region matters.